



In Commemoration of Lincoln's Birthday



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LINCOLN'S LIFE IN SPRINGFIELD

THE early manhood of Abraham Lincoln was so closely interwoven with the early growth and history of Springfield, Illinois, that now when one is spoken of, the other naturally is brought vividly to mind.

Abraham Lincoln was born in Hardin County, Kentucky, February 12, 1809; his family moved to Indiana in 1816 and, in 1830, settled in Illinois, near Decatur. Here it was that Lincoln split the rails that gained him the title of "Rail Splitter" in the 1860 Presidential campaign.

He went to New Salem in 1831 and was an unsuccessful candidate for the Illinois Legislature in 1832. Defeated but not discouraged, he ran again in 1834 and was elected. So Lincoln's first real association with Springfield began with his appearance in the Legislature of 1835. He retired in 1841 to practice law in Springfield, having been admitted to the bar in 1837.

Elected to Congress in 1846, he took his seat in December 1847, as a member of the Thirtieth Congress. Nominated for United States Senator in 1858, he was defeated by Stephen A. Douglas. His defeat was actually a victory, as he achieved a national reputation through his anti-slavery stand in his joint debate with Douglas.

Lincoln was nominated in May 1860, by the Chicago Convention and was elected in November, and inaugurated President, March 4, 1861. After a service during the period "that tried men's souls," he was

assassinated on April 14, 1865, and his body was returned to the city he loved so well, on May 3, 1865.

Lincoln's farewell address to his Springfield neighbors, when he left to assume the presidency in 1861, is a classic and breathes the love and religion of that great American. Springfield is replete with mementos and locations made famous by associations with Lincoln, and the traveler should stop over and visit the shrine of the "savior of our country."



FAREWELL ADDRESS

MY FRIENDS: No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when or whether ever I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed; with that assistance, I cannot fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell.



LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

“FOURSCORE and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

“Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

“But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have, consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract.

“The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

¶ It should be the duty as well as the pleasure of all good Americans to visit the home and tomb of this great man. The Chicago and Alton R. R. permits a stop over of not to exceed 10 days at Springfield on railroad tickets reading through that point.

